OH, BARRY: MANILOW HITS A MILESTONE

WITH HIS 50TH HIT ON BILLBOARD'S ADULT CONTEMPORARY CHART, THE BALLADEER ENTERS THE PANTHEON OF EASY LISTENING PAGE 8

REGINA metro ®

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

News worth sharing.

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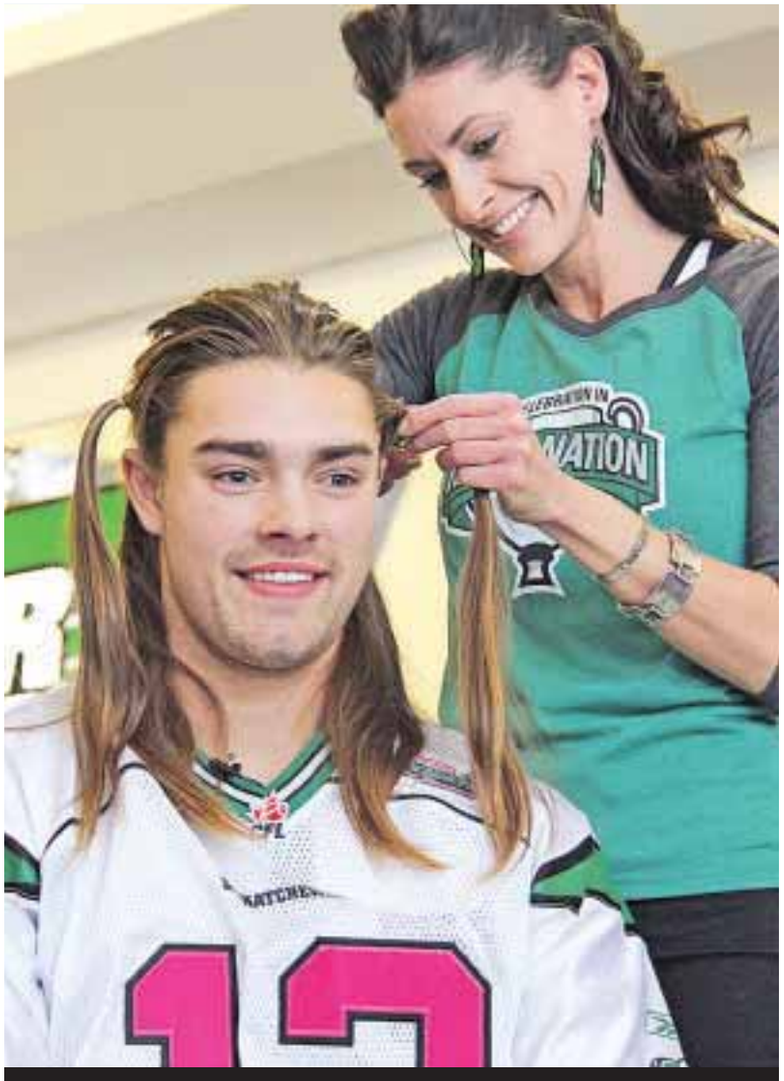

TAKING THE SNIP

Saskatchewan Roughrider Graig Newman got his long locks lopped off for charity at the Centre Mall in Saskatoon on Tuesday. Newman and teammates Sam Hurl and Scott McHenry, also known as the Canadian Hair Force, have raised $15,000 for the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. The trio also donated their lopped locks to be used to make wigs for cancer patients. Check out metronews.ca for a photo gallery of the event. JANE CAULFIELD/METRO IN SASKATOON

3 charged in murder of Sask. mom

Suspects linked to gang. Investigators say September shooting death of Lorry Santos was a 'tragic' case of mistaken address

JANE CAULFIELD
Metro in Saskatoon

On the heels of census data placing Saskatchewan as one of the most murderous provinces in the country, the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) called shooting victim Lorry Santos an innocent victim of gang activity.

Police have charged Kyle Halbauer, 22, Joshua Petrin, 29, and Randy O'Hagan, 22, with first-degree murder for Santos' death. All three men are known to be associated with an Alberta-based gang called the White Boy Posse.

The SPS joined forces with police in Alberta for an eight-week investigation, which linked Santos' death to two other murders in Alberta.

"The scope of this investigation grew beyond what we expected when we started," said Insp. Jerome Engele of the SPS on Tuesday.

Police said at the time of the Sept. 12 shooting the 34-year-old stay-at-home mother was shot and killed when she answered the door of her home to strangers.

Members of Lorry Santos' family listen to the announcement made by Saskatoon police and Alberta RCMP at the Saskatoon police headquarters Tuesday morning. JANE CAULFIELD/METRO IN SASKATOON

Saskatoon police said Tuesday her killers had the wrong address and Santos was an innocent victim of cross-border drug dealing and organized crime.

"This was a tragic crime that left a husband without his wife and four children without their mother," said Saskatoon police Chief Clive Weighill.

Santos was the mother of four children ranging in age from five months to 16 years. It was one of the older children who called 911 after the shooting.

Santos worked at uranium mining giant Cameco but had been on maternity leave since giving birth to her fourth child in April.

A co-worker said at the time of the shooting that Santos was a "very special person who had a way of touching people."

Saskatoon police Insp. Garrett Woolsey said investigators believe everyone involved in the gang is now in custody.

WITH FILES FROM CANADIAN PRESS/CHED/CJWW

Follow Jane Caulfield on Twitter @janecaulfield

By the numbers

According to a new report by Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan has one of the highest homicide rates in the country, second only to Manitoba.

2011 homicide numbers:

598 Canada

38 Saskatchewan

6 Saskatoon

7 Regina

NEWS 1

Employment Act

Indexed minimum wage part of labour law overhaul

The province is indexing the minimum wage and changing the rules for lockouts or strikes.

The changes are part of the new Saskatchewan Employment Act, which consolidates 12 workplace-related pieces of legislation into one omnibus bill. The act says if a contract can't be reached, the parties must take a 14-day cooling-off period before a strike or lockout can happen. It also says unions can still fine members who cross picket lines, but now they'll have to get a court order to collect. The bill does not include essential-services legislation, which a court ruled was unconstitutional.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mechanical problems

No injuries as plane diverts to Regina

A WestJet plane made an emergency landing at Regina airport on Tuesday due to unknown mechanical problems. Flight 475 was en route to Calgary when the crew noticed an odour in the cabin and the flight diverted to Regina as a precaution. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surge in emergency cases

Medical procedures on hold due to overcrowding

Some non-surgical elective procedures are being cancelled at two Regina hospitals.

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region says the move is necessary because of extreme overcapacity in the emergency departments at the hospitals. It adds that no surgeries at the Regina General and Pasqua hospitals have been cancelled.

Spokesman Michael Redenbach said the health region is working to bring patient numbers down so that endoscopies and other procedures can resume this week. He said there is no one health problem causing the surge in patients.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Province needs to beef up meat inspection: Auditor

Report. Dozens of slaughterhouses sell meat that isn't inspected because the law doesn't require it

Saskatchewan needs to update its regulations and inspect more meat plants, the provincial auditor says, but the health minister is concerned about changing some standards.

Provincial auditor Bonnie Lysyk said in a report released on Tuesday that meat from 76 of the province's 90 slaughter plants is not being inspected.

Only the plant itself is reviewed annually for cleanliness and for its ability to keep meat cold, she said.

"I guess we were surprised that the 76 plants didn't have their meat inspected, mainly because we did a comparison to the rest of Canada, and we noticed that the majority of the provinces are inspecting both meat as well as the plant," Lysyk said at a news conference at the legislature.

"The slaughter process isn't being looked at, as well as the carcass, and the animal itself, so those three things aren't being looked at in plants that are inspected just by (the Ministry of) Health."

Saskatchewan laws allow meat to be sold without being inspected. It is the only province where meat safety is handled by two ministries: Health and Agriculture.

Health Minister Dustin Duncan said the province will revisit the standards, but move ahead with caution. The plants are small and deal primarily with ranchers who want their beef slaughtered, processed and packaged for their own consumption, he added.

"What we want to be cautious of is ... if we make it more difficult for an industry that operates in this type of niche market to exist into the future, what are the consequences of doing that," Duncan said.

Duncan also said that, to the government's knowledge, no food-borne illnesses have been tracked to the plants.

The remaining 14 plants, which handle larger volumes of meat, have regular and more in-depth inspections, Duncan said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Provincial auditor Bonnie Lysyk says 76 meat plants in Saskatchewan don't have their meat inspected. She made the announcement at the legislature on Tuesday as she released her Auditor General's Report. JEFF MACKEY/ METRO

Provincial finances

GRF reports outmoded: Auditor

The auditor also raised concern about how the government reports its finances.

Bonnie Lysyk repeated a long-standing request for the government to stop reporting on the General Revenue Fund, since only the Summary Financial Statements, which take all areas of government into account, paint a real picture of finances.

"Having two sets of books and all these numbers floating around is confusing to the average citizen and no other province speaks that way to the financial statements anymore," Lysyk said.

"If you go back 10 years, 15, 20 years, you know that was the state of the land. It's changed and it's time that the focus be on the right number and clarity around communication of financial information."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Four White Boy Posse members behind three murders, police say

Brutal killings in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Innocent woman wasn't the only victim

Police believe the death of an innocent mother shot while answering her front door is not the only murder the White Boy Posse have been involved with.

They're also alleged to have taken part in two other murders in Alberta.

One death involves a man whose decapitated body was found near a ditch in rural Alberta.

A few days later, a woman walking her dog found his missing head in an Edmonton alley.

"It was significant. It was sensationalized," Insp. Jerry Scott with the Alberta RCMP's serious crimes branch said Tuesday after the arrests were announced.

Scott said police stepped up their investigation once they realized what they faced. The gang had been on their radar for a few years.

"We were very cognizant of who we were dealing with and the public safety matters."

Investigators believe two of the slayings were motivated by the gang's drug trafficking business.

In the case of Lorry Anne Santos, 33, investigators think the suspects targeted the wrong house.

Joshua Dylan Petrin, Randy James Wayne O'Hagan and Kyle Darren Halbauer are charged with first-degree murder in Santos's death.

O'Hagan and Nikolas Jon Nowytzkyj, 32, of Wainwright, Alta., have also been charged with first-degree murder and offering an indignity to a human body in the death of Robert John Roth.

Residents said at the time of the initial discovery that Roth's remains were found in a ditch next to a running pickup truck. The victim was 54 years old and lived in Lloydminster.

O'Hagan and Halbauer, are facing charges in the death of another man. Bryan Gower's body was found on a rural road.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police investigate after a human head was found in an Edmonton alley in October. JESSE WHITNACK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not guilty! Soldier, wife share a long embrace

A Canadian reservist has been found not guilty of manslaughter in an Afghanistan training accident that killed one soldier and injured four others.

A military jury at a court martial in Calgary also acquitted Maj. Darryl Watts of breach of duty.

But the five jurors, all senior officers in the Canadian Forces, convicted him of unlawfully causing bodily harm and negligent performance of military duty.

Watts, who stood at attention while the verdict was being read, shared a long embrace with his wife once the court had adjourned.

The courtroom at the Mewata Armoury in Calgary where the trial was held, was jammed with military personnel.

The maximum sentence for unlawfully causing bodily harm is imprisonment of up to 10 years. Negligent performance of duty can bring dismissal with disgrace from the Canadian Forces.

Cpl. Josh Baker died when a Claymore anti-personnel mine loaded with 700 steel balls peppered the platoon on a practice range near Kandahar city in February 2010.

The prosecution had argued that Watts turned a blind eye to safety standards and abdicated his duty as a leader when he handed over responsibility to his second-in-command, who was an expert on the weapon.

Defence lawyer Balfour Der said Watts is "deeply disappointed in being convicted of anything."

Der added: "Major Watts is such a good soldier."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I feel very strongly in the man's innocence, and I feel very badly for him and his family."

Defence lawyer Balfour Der, choking back tears.

Maj. Darryl Watts, pictured heading to court last month, has been found not guilty of manslaughter in a fatal Afghanistan training accident.

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

UN aftermath. After big debate, Tories won't cut aid to the Palestinians

The Harper government pledged Tuesday night to preserve millions of dollars in Canadian aid to the Palestinians.

The issue was discussed during a 90-minute meeting in Ottawa involving Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, International Co-operation Minister Julian Fantino and four envoys called home for talks.

Baird had recalled them to discuss a response to the Palestinians' new United Nations status.

Baird's spokesperson said Tuesday night that Canada's five-year, $300-million commitment would be maintained when it expires in March. The money goes toward strengthening the Palestinian justice system, economic development, health and education.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

World outsiders

Canada strongly opposed the Palestinians' successful effort last week to win elevated status at the UN.

- **Almost alone.** Canada was one of only nine countries to vote against the Palestinians in the 193-nation General Assembly.

Health Canada acts

Food testing lab's licence suspended

Health Canada has yanked the licence of a Toronto-area chemical testing laboratory.

The watchdog says it found falsified results in tests involving medications, natural food products and food additives. It says in some cases, Chemi Pharmaceutical did not test drug ingredients.

The agency said there is no evidence the health of Canadians has been compromised. Chemi Pharmaceutical did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

John McAfee seeks asylum in Guatemala

On the lam. Founder of anti-virus company fled Belize fearing death in police custody

Software company founder John McAfee has surfaced in public for the first time in weeks, saying on Tuesday that he plans to ask for asylum in Guatemala because he fears persecution in Belize.

McAfee spoke to The Associated Press in a restaurant near a high-end hotel where he is staying in Guatemala City after sneaking out of neighbouring Belize. Police in Belize have called him a person of interest in the November slaying of a fellow American expat.

McAfee says he is being persecuted by the Belizean government and has sensitive information about official corruption in the country where he lived in a compound guarded by aggressive dogs and armed guards.

Real-world security

"I need a safe place where I can actually speak out."

Anti-virus company founder John McAfee

"Now that I'm here, I can speak freely. I can speak openly," McAfee said.

He said he plans to petition the Guatemalan government to allow him to stay. He added that he fears he will be killed if he turns himself in for questioning in Belize.

"Belize does not have a good track record of providing safety when they ask to question you," he said. "I felt much more secure crossing the border into a country that had laws that were backed by the justice system."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

John McAfee, left, with his lawyer, Telesforo Guerra, answers questions at a restaurant in Guatemala City on Tuesday. MOISES CASTILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Royal Family. Boy or girl, Kate's baby will take the throne: U.K. government

The business of monarchy has always been stacked in favour of men. Not any more — or so the British government promises.

The first child of Prince William and his wife, Kate, will be born a king or a queen in waiting, under changes to succession rules designed to overturn centuries of tradition and give royal daughters the same rights as sons.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg pledged on Tuesday that the law on succession would be changed at the "earliest opportunity." He said "whether the baby is a boy or a girl, they will have an equal claim to the throne."

"Born to rule, be it a boy or a girl" proclaimed the Daily Mail, which noted that the baby had "already made royal and constitutional history" even before it is born.

Not so fast, caution others.

A royal saga needs a touch of uncertainty, and experts point out that despite politicians' promises, the law giving males primacy in succession has not yet been changed — and the clock is ticking.

Britain's Prince William leaves a hospital in London on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We know that the wishes of politicians are written in water," said royal historian Robert Lacey. "Law only becomes law when the law is made — and the law has not been made."

Last year, the leaders of Britain and the 15 former colonies that have the queen as their head of state informally agreed to establish new rules giving female children equal status with males in the order of succession — something that will require legal changes in each country.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stay curious

NASA hopes to send Curiosity clone to Mars

NASA says it wants to launch another mega-rover to Mars modelled on the wildly popular Curiosity.

The space agency said Tuesday that the spacecraft will be built from Curiosity's spare parts. It would use the novel landing system that got the car-size rover to Mars in August.

The new mission, estimated to cost about $1.5 billion, is scheduled for 2020. But the rover's exact purpose in the mission hasn't been hashed out yet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Magnetosphere

Scientists discover radioactive chirps from the cosmos

Twin spacecraft have captured the clearest sounds yet from Earth's radiation belts — and they mimic the chirping of birds.

NASA's Van Allen Probes have been exploring the radiation belts surrounding Earth for just three months. But already, they've collected measurements of high-energy particles and radio waves in unprecedented detail.

The chorus has been audible before, however; ham radio operators could sometimes hear it decades ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On CIBC Miracle Day, we're investing in kids.

On December 5, 2012, CIBC's wholesale banking employees and participating CIBC Wood Gundy Investment Advisors will donate their fees and commissions to children's charities. It's called Miracle Day,® and it's a proud and celebrated tradition that's an important part of CIBC's ongoing commitment to investing in kids, cures and community.

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OH, CHRISTMAS TREE, WHY DO YOU CAUSE SUCH A DEBATE?

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's an important dialogue going on in households around the world right about now.

And it goes like this:

He: So, where do you think the tree should go this year?

She: You know, Hon, I really think we should bite the bullet and buy an artificial tree this year. Those real trees are so messy. They drop all their needles and are full of bugs. Squirrels, too, maybe.

He: The trouble with artificial trees is that they look as if they were put together on craft day at kindergarten using toilet brushes and spray paint.

She: That's not true! The new ones are pretty nice and they come with lights. All you have to do is take them out of the box, plug them in and voila: Instant Christmas.

He: I try to stay away from anything with the word 'instant' in it: Instant coffee … instant mashed potatoes.

She: But real trees are so expensive. To get one that looks any good, you have to spend at least $50.

He: The only artificial ones that look any good at all cost seven or eight hundred bucks. At that price, it will take an eternity of *instant* Christmases to amortize the cost.

Sound of quaint landline ringing.

Offspring: Hi Daddy! What's up?

He: Hi. Your mother is lobbying for an artificial tree again this year.

Offspring: Nooooo! It wouldn't be Christmas. The Geneva Convention specifically calls for a real tree to be sacrificed as a solstice offering. Have you called the Xmas police?

He: Not yet. She does make a certain amount of sense about the mess, which I end up cleaning up every year. And it's harder now because I have to toss the old tree over the balcony.

Offspring: Don't be silly, Daddy. You can get one of those noble firs. They don't lose their needles until Easter and only cost $100 or so.

He: Is that all?

Offspring: And you get to save Christmas. I know I can count on you, Daddy. Gotta run! Ciao!

She: Was that our daughter?

He: Yes. She accused you of trying to ruin Christmas.

She: Same old, same old. By the way, I've been thinking: We could get one of those Charlie Brown trees from Ikea. I think they come free with a dozen meatballs.

He: I believe that's Lille Karl in Sweden. And his dog is called Snobben. At least there would be no place for the bugs to hide.

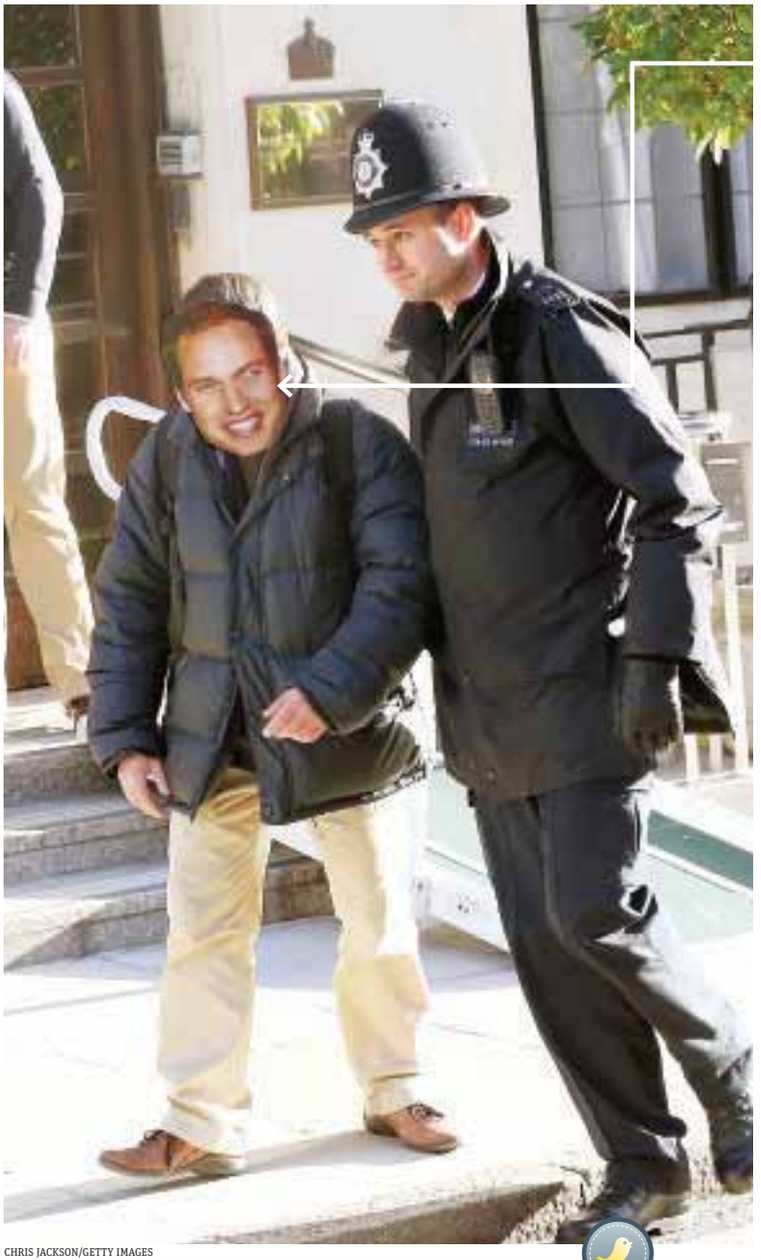
She: You can't help showing off, can you?

He: So where do you think the tree should go this year?

The pine needle in my side

"The only artificial ones that look any good at all cost seven or eight hundred bucks. At that price, it will take an eternity of *instant* Christmases to amortize the cost."

Road bump in the baby lodge



CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

Royal pregnancy

Police not fooled by princely mask

A man wearing a Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, mask is escorted away by a police officer at the King Edward VII hospital in London, England. Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, remains in hospital after Monday's announcement of her pregnancy and the fact she is suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum or acute morning sickness. METRO

#royalbaby

Messages from the womb, under 140 characters

This man isn't the only royal impostor caught up in baby-mania. Spoof Twitter accounts of the unborn child are getting attention.

"CURRENT STATUS: DARK IN HERE, WILL UPDATE," tweeted @RoyalFoetus, which has 6,800+ followers. A rival, @RoyalFetus (10,000+ followers), said: "I may not have bones yet, but I'm already more important than everyone reading this." METRO

What are the odds?

8-1

Bettors in Britain have a range of possible wagers from betting agencies William Hill, Ladbrokes and Paddy Power. Paddy Power will give you 8-1 odds for betting on twins; 100-1 for triplets; and for quadruplets or more you'll get 500-1 odds.

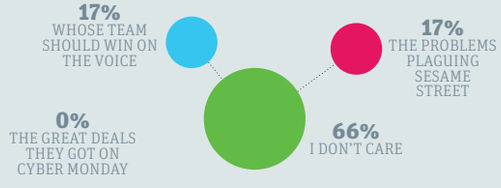
Online

For the latest, go to metronews.ca.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What do you think Barack Obama and rival Mitt Romney really talked about when they met for lunch last week?



Twitter

@kbessym: Really need the Property Brothers to design and renovate rooms in our house. Any #yqr recommendations with similar brilliance?

@garretwoynarski: Tips for walking on #yqr ice. Soft soled shoes, short stride, walk w slightly bent knees and press your toes down to create proprioception.

@Woroschuk55: Soooooooo volunteering for the Grey Cup next year! :D #RiderNation

@taroncochrane: Two billboards I see side by side outside my Office window: #1. Dealing with gambling addictions. #2. Gambling is FUN.

@christiejwest: I tried to brighten a parking ticket guys day with a friendly conversation. NOPE #angrypeople

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CFIB report. Five extra public sector sick days cost up to $3.5B yearly

A new report suggests public sector employees in Canada take nearly five more sick, disability and personal days per year than Canadians working in the private sector.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business says those extra days cost up to $3.5 billion per year, noting some public sector workers can bank unused sick days, then take a lump-sum payment or use the days to retire early.

The CFIB says federal government employees take the most time off, averaging 15.2 sick, disability and personal days per year compared to 12.9 days in the overall public sector and 8.2 days in the overall private sector.

In its report, the CFIB calls for sick day allotments to be aligned with those offered in the private sector and for the accumulation of unused sick days to be discontinued.

"I don't think anybody believes that public sector workers just get sick more often, yet something makes them feel entitled to more time off," said CFIB president and CEO Dan Kelly. "Obviously, we want to be compassionate when people are truly not well, but the current system has entrenched a feeling of entitlement to those days off that has very little to do with being sick."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Private sector figures

6.7

Employees in businesses with fewer than 20 employees averaged 6.7 days off, while those in firms with more than 500 employees took 9.1 days, which is still lower than the public sector average.

U.K. PM warns editors to take action on press regulator

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron meets children at a primary school in London on Tuesday. Earlier, Cameron warned newspaper editors they must act quickly to set up an independent press regulator in the wake of a media ethics scandal. NEIL HALL/PA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banking. BMO focuses on growing U.S. operations

The Bank of Montreal has set it sights on growing its U.S. business, it said Tuesday after spending more than a year overhauling and revamping the operations.

BMO chief executive Bill Downe said the bank is launching a massive advertising blitz now that the integration of Milwaukee-based Marshall and Ilsley Corp. is complete.

"This month we're blanketing our U.S. footprint with some of the strongest advertising and promotions the bank has ever developed, online, outdoor, broadcast and in-branch," Downe said on a conference call with analysts.

BMO doubled down on its U.S. operations when it acquired Marshall and Ilsley last year for $4.1 billion US in a bid to give it the scale and reach needed to compete south of the border. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Q4 results

- The Bank of Montreal reported a fourth-quarter profit of $1.08 billion on Tuesday as its capital markets business more than doubled its earnings compared with a year ago.

Ottawa

BoC maintains interest rates will need to rise

The Bank of Canada is holding fast to its view that the economy is poised for a comeback and that interest rates will need to rise at some point in the future.

The central bank offered no surprises in its Tuesday interest rate announcement, keeping the policy setting rate at one per cent for the 18th consecutive announcement date.

Bank governor Mark Carney kept in place his future guidance that in all likelihood rates are more likely to rise in the future than fall, or even stay the same. "Although underlying momentum appears slightly softer than previously anticipated, the pace of economic growth is expected to pick up through 2013," the bank said in its policy statement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary

Canadian Pacific to cut 4,500 jobs

Canadian Pacific says it will eliminate some 4,500 jobs by 2016 and expects more than a third of those cuts to come by year-end as the struggling railroad works to bring down its operating costs. The Calgary-based company said reductions will be achieved through job cuts, attrition and reducing contractors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Washington

Plans for avoiding fiscal cliff far apart

Both U.S. President Barack Obama and Republicans in Congress now have laid out some specifics of their vision for stepping back from the "fiscal cliff" budget crisis, but the plans are vastly different and leave politicians far from agreement with a deadline less than a month away.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
100.68¢ (+0.17¢)

TSX
12,137.18 (-32.56)

OIL
$88.50 US (-59¢)

GOLD
$1,695.80 US (-$25.30)

Natural gas: $3.54 US (-5¢)
Dow Jones: 12,951.78 (-13.82)

On top of the cheesy charts

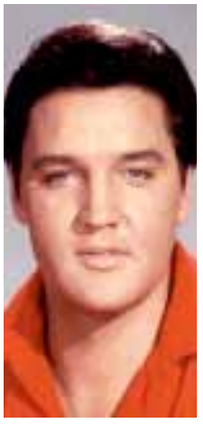
Barry Manilow has become just the fifth artist to score 50 hits on Billboard's Adult Contemporary chart. The sentimental performer entered the rarified mix thanks to a cushy rendition of Santa Claus Is Coming to Town off his new Christmas album. As any Fanilow worth their One Night Live! One Last Time! concert tee could tell you, it's been four decades since the romantic balladeer first cracked the easy listening chart in November of 1974 with Mandy (the first of 13 of Manilow's ditties that would soar to No. 1 on the chart). We cosy up with the AC music titans voted most easy on the ears.

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Johnny Mathis

AC chart appearances: 49

While just one chart appearance shy of an official 50 entries club membership, this velvet voiced crooner pioneered the greatest hits album format. 1958's Johnny's Greatest Hits earned Mathis a spot in the Guinness Book of World Record.



Elvis Presley

AC chart appearances: 53

You can thank the king, and thank him very much for assuring that the rhythm and blues, rock and roll and gospel charts got all shook up during his reign from the 1950s through the '70s until his untimely passing.

Easy Listening Cred: Can't Help Falling in Love, Suspicious Minds, It's Now or Never.

Neil Diamond

AC chart appearances: 58

While millennials know this jazzy vocalist as the guy who sings Sweet Caroline, Diamond has written a treasure trove of soft rock gems. He's sold over 125 million records during his five decades on the scene. Easy Listening Cred: America, Heartlight, Forever in Blue Jeans.

Elton John

AC chart appearances: 68

In high school, this bespectacled pop piano prodigy should have been voted "most likely to be heard in an animated movie."

With lyricist Bernie Taupin in tow, the rocket man launched one hit after the other into radio orbit since Your Song off his sophomore album cracked the top 10 in 1970.

Barbra Streisand

AC chart appearances: 64

Trends, smrends, Babs eschewed 'em all, including rhinoplasty, fearing a nose job would ruin her voice. Never following suit with the hipsters of her heyday, Streisand was adult contemporary long before the term was coined.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Random sources state the obvious about Will and Kate

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

The news of Will and Kate's impending arrival has the tabloids in a tizzy — and scrambling for anyone, anyone at all, to be quoted about it.

I've compiled a sampling of the best of these random, mostly anonymous sources, all of whom state how Kate and Will will be good parents (as if anyone is going to say that she's going to become a baby-smacking alcoholic and he's planning on raising the baby as a racist).

The best of the bunch, with an added bonus of Snooki (say what?) commentary:

"Kate will be a firm but fair mother. Kate will let her children have fun and freedom, but she will also make sure they do what is best for them." — A "pal" of the Duchess of Cambridge, per Us Weekly.

"I can see William wanting to take time off in the modern paternity-leave style, so that he bonds with his child." — A "family friend" to dailymail.co.uk

"(Kate and Will) both try to be as normal as possible in their private lives. ... Everyone's always said what great parents they'll be, since they are such a caring couple and very relaxed. They will lavish love on their children." — Jessica Hay, a "childhood acquaintance" of Kate's, to Australian tabloid New Idea

"I'm sure she will be an amazing mom." — Snooki to the New York Daily News

Twitter

@ABFoundation
I'm gonna write a book. A novel. It's called A PRIVATE MISUNDERSTANDING. Can you guess what it's about? Can you guess what happens?

@kathygriffin
I bet Justin Bieber can blow a mean whistle

@ParisHilton
Just landed in Dubai. Next stop New York City.

@RebelWilson
I am going to go on a new cleanse - my weekend cleanse of cutting everything out of my diet except for chocolate DID NOT WORK!

Travolta's alleged lover sues star

A man who told the National Enquirer that he had a "steamy affair" with John Travolta while working as his pilot from 1981 to 1987 is now suing the actor, insisting he never signed a confidentiality agreement that would bar him from talking to the media about his time with the actor, according to TMZ.

The man, Doug Gotterba, claims Travolta's lawyer, Marty Singer, threatened a lawsuit after the story was published. Singer maintains that Gotterba's termination agreement included a confidentiality clause and that the former employee is just out for attention.

"Mr. Gotterba obviously filed this lawsuit to get his 15 minutes of fame," Singer says. "We plan to get this meritless case promptly dismissed."

John Travolta

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Since 1985, the United Nations has recognized the contributions of volunteers around the world on Dec. 5, International Volunteer Day. Metro talks to Cuso International and Free The Children, international development organizations that send volunteers overseas to share their expertise with partners in other nations. Here, they offer five things to consider before taking the leap into overseas volunteering.

METRO NEWS
life@metronews.ca

5 things every volunteer should know

Visual artist Stephanie Stoker (centre) works with young adults in Peru. CUSO INTERNATIONAL

Choose your organization carefully

Some organizations require you to pay your own way, and often include a fee; volunteering may be a fundraising mechanism for a development project. For others, volunteering is fundamental to their programs, and those serving take on professional roles in longer-term development.

SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL

Work alongside the local community

Often times, travellers volunteer in isolation from the local community in which they are working in. Make sure to travel with organizations that have strong partnerships with local communities and governments. This enables you to ensure you are committing to a project that promotes long term and sustainable change.

CRAIG KIELBURGER, FOUNDER, FREE THE CHILDREN

School-building with local children creates a lasting bond for volunteers. FREE THE CHILDREN

Bairu Sium, left, a Toronto high school teacher, assists his colleagues in education in Tanzania. SCOTT PORTINGALE/CUSO INTERNATIONAL

Know why you're going

Volunteers want to help and make a difference, as the cliché goes, but most know this isn't a purely selfless act. You will learn new skills, broaden your horizons and come to better understand yourself and the world. And that's all OK. Reflect on your motivations. You want to help reduce global poverty or protect the natural world, but what else? Have you always wanted to travel, but not as a tourist? Work with kids? When you understand your motivations, you'll be in a better position to choose the option that is right for you. **SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL**

A volunteer trip is just the beginning

Volunteer travel is a life-changing experience for both the traveller and the developing communities in which they work. Further ignite the global change maker in you by taking your experience one step further when you return home. Spread the message of your transformative experience to others, helping to spark the change within them. **CRAIG KIELBURGER, FOUNDER, FREE THE CHILDREN**

For young people, volunteering means being engaged, empowered and part of a team. FREE THE CHILDREN

Don't assume you know it all

Decades of successful and not-so-successful development assistance shows that projects parachuted in from above, without consultation or roots in local communities, usually do not have long-term benefits. You will want to help build the social infrastructure that is so critical to any nation's future.

SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL

Augustina Aporte, who lives in Bolivia, works with the Chiquitania Forest Conservation Foundation on sustainability projects. MIGUEL HORTIGUELA/CUSO INTERNATIONAL

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OPEN YEAR-ROUND

Impress your guests' taste buds with sophisticated Parmesan Custard Cup

Ingredients

Parmesan Custard
- 1 pkg (250g/8oz) light cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) whipping cream
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and freshly ground pepper

Spinach Layer
- 2 pkgs each (300g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) vegetable oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and freshly ground pepper

Roasted Red Pepper Layer
- 1 jar (340 ml) roasted red peppers, drained and thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic

Salad
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) red wine vinegar
- 2 tsp (10 ml) Dijon mustard
- salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cups (750 ml) mixed salad greens

Parmesan Custard Cup

This recipe makes 8 custard cups. EGG FARMERS OF ONTARIO

Parmesan Custard

1. In food processor, combine light cream cheese, whipping cream and eggs. Pulse until smooth, about 2 minutes.

2. Add Parmesan, salt and pepper; continue to pulse until smooth, about 1 minute. Divide Parmesan mix into each of the eight greased glass ramekins (approx. 1/4 cup or 50 ml in each)

Spinach Layer

1. Put spinach over strainer in the sink and gently press to remove water.

2. In skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat, add garlic; cook, stirring until aromatic, about 1 min. Stir in spinach, green onions, salt and pepper. Cook to combine flavours, 4 mins. Remove from heat and spoon a generous 1/4 cup (50 ml) spinach mix on top of Parmesan custard, pressing gently.

Roasted Red Pepper and Salad Greens

1. In bowl, stir red pepper slices and garlic. Cover tops of spinach with a layer of roasted red pepper. The peppers should cover the spinach. Smooth tops.

2. Place custard cups on large rimmed baking sheet and bake in 375 F (190 C) oven until set, about 30 mins. Let cool slightly.

3. Meanwhile, in bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, Dijon, salt and pepper. Toss with mixed greens.

4. Run thin knife around edges of glass ramekins. Invert onto salad plates and top each with small amount of mixed greens and serve. Or top each cup with a handful of mixed greens and serve.

EGG FARMERS OF ONTARIO

Drink of the Week

Apple Cider Punch

Apple cider is one of those drinks that is automatically associated with winter and the holiday season.

- 2 oz Bombay Sapphire
- 2.5 oz apple cider
- 1 oz grapefruit juice
- 1 egg white
- 1 oz corn syrup
- 1 dash Angustura bitters

Combine all ingredients into a shaker, dry shake. Add ice and shake again. Double strain into glass. Garnish with apple slice.

RECIPE AND PHOTO COURTESY OF BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

Gingerbread Cake ushers in the holiday baking season

There is no subtle way to say this. This cake screams Christmas.

To start with, it's gingerbread, the aroma alone of which is embedded in the definition of this holiday. That aroma, of course, is paired with an ultra-rich, moist cake that is at once dense, but also light. Then there is the sugar crisp caramelized sides of the cake, which only add to the tender, sweet lemony pear slices that crown the cake.

Ingredients

- Zest and juice of 2 lemons
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar, divided
- 3 large pears, peeled, cored and sliced
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup molasses
- 1 tbsp dry ground ginger
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground cardamom
- 1/2 tsp ground allspice
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 2/3 cups all-purpose flour

1. In a skillet over low heat, combine the lemon juice and zest with the wine and 1/2 cup of the brown sugar. Add the pears and bring to a slow simmer. Cook for 10 minutes, or until the pears are just tender. Remove from the heat and gently stir in the raisins.

2. Heat the oven to 350 F. Spray a tube pan with baking spray. Sprinkle the remaining 1/4 cup brown sugar in the bottom of the pan. Arrange the pears, slightly overlapping, over the sugar.

3. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, granulated sugar, molasses, ginger, cinnamon, cardamom, allspice, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add the eggs, one at a time, scraping the bowl between additions. Add half the milk followed by half of the flour, mixing before adding the remaining half the milk and flour.

This recipe serves 16. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spoon into the prepared pan over the pears.

4. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted at the centre comes out clean. Allow to cool for 15 minutes in the pan, then place a large overturned plate or platter over the cake. Invert the cake so it is standing on the plate. If any of the pears stick to the pan, carefully remove them and return them to their place on the cake.

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Optimize your office experience

Placement pointers. A co-op can easily turn into a full-time career, so work it like you're already on board

VALERIE AGUIAR
TalentEgg.ca

Going out on a co-op work term for the first time can be daunting. Aside from showing up to work, there's a lot you should do to make a good impression.

Here are seven tips to help you make the most of your experience:

Don't wait until the first day
If you've been given your managers' contact information, get in touch with them. Let her know that you are excited to start and find out if there is anything they can suggest for you to do before you arrive. This gives them a good impression of you before they've even met you.

On your first day, come prepared
Bring in a copy of your job description as well as a notebook. You'll be taking in a lot of new information, so it helps if you write it down. It's also important that you rest up the night before. Even though your job might not be grueling, being in a new environment is, so help your body out by getting some sleep.

Don't flood your supervisor's inbox with questions when you could have easily asked a co-worker instead. ISTOCK

Ask questions
Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. People know you are new, and in most cases, they'll be more than happy to help. Don't be intimidated if everyone seems busy. They are, but they'll still find a way to help you — if you ask.

Observe
Whenever possible, try to watch and see how your manager and co-workers interact (not in a creepy way, of course!). Maybe people at your company are very casual in conversation. How do people dress? How long do people typically go for lunch? Use what you see to help you fit in.

Ask for work
Each manager is unique. Some might delegate tasks to you, others might only give you work if you ask for it. Don't be afraid to use the phrase, "Would you like me to do anything in particular today?" It always helps to be proactive at work. Plus, you might learn a thing or two.

When in doubt, check it out. If the work you are given is difficult and you aren't sure whether you did it correctly, ask someone to look over your work.

Your manager would definitely prefer this instead of finding a ton of mistakes later. You'll find that as time goes on, you'll feel more confident in your work.

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Speak out

@TalentEgg: #Coop students and grads: do you think co-op placements make a big difference in hatching a career? #QuestionOfTheDay

- **@SabaSabati:** Absolutely! U graduate w/ min 9 months experience. Relative to those with 0, it's a huge advantage! + networking opp = priceless
- **@ssimpson3:** It's a great way to add some experience to your resume, network within the industry, and and gain some real world skills
- **@danchukal:** absolutely! Coop gets ur foot in the door and without that exp, you'll be many steps behind those who have. #QuestionOfTheDay
- **@sonjaferne:** My worry as parent is companies cutting back; more students to place & fewer placements these days. So...is it worth it?
- **@ScouseNerd:** absolutely! If my previous program had anything like that I think my life would be much different today
- **@Mathoraa:** Definitely! It not only gives you experience, but also a 'feel' on what the job is like

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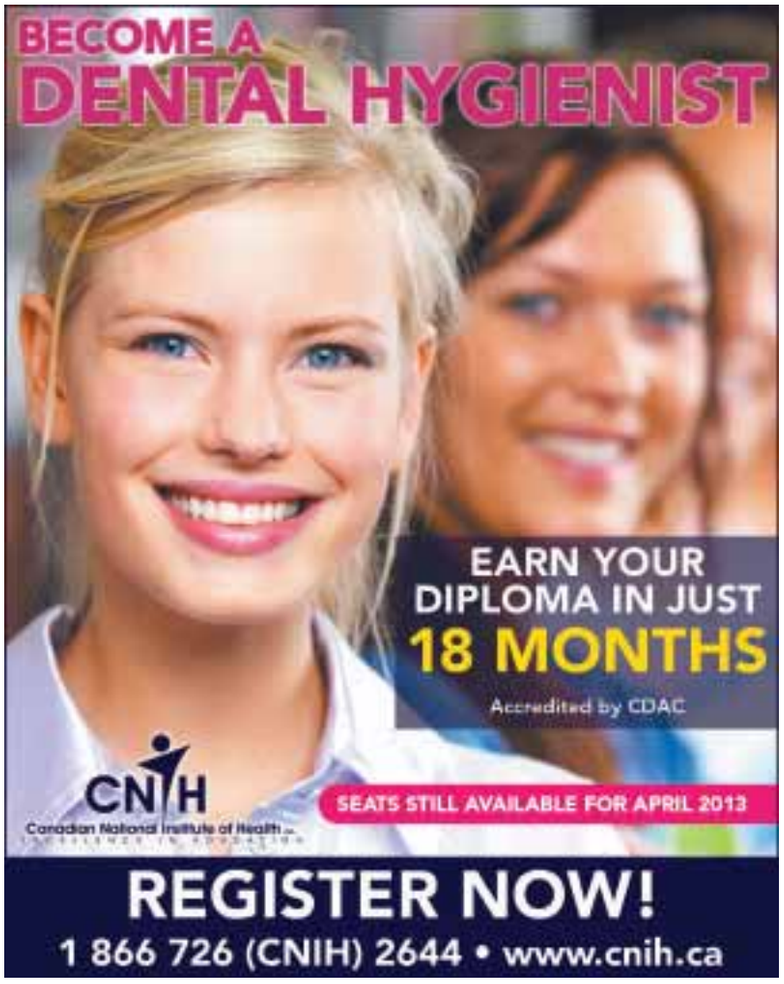


Hockey

Americans name invitees for junior selection camp

Returning players John Gibson, Jacob Trouba and J.T. Miller, as well as some top NHL prospects, were among 27 players invited Tuesday to the U.S. national junior team preliminary training camp.

Alex Galchenyuk of the Sarnia Sting, drafted third overall by the Montreal Canadiens in June, as well as Toronto Maple Leafs first-rounder Tyler Biggs and the Ottawa Senators' 21st overall selection Stefan Noesen were also invited.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Victorino Beantown bound

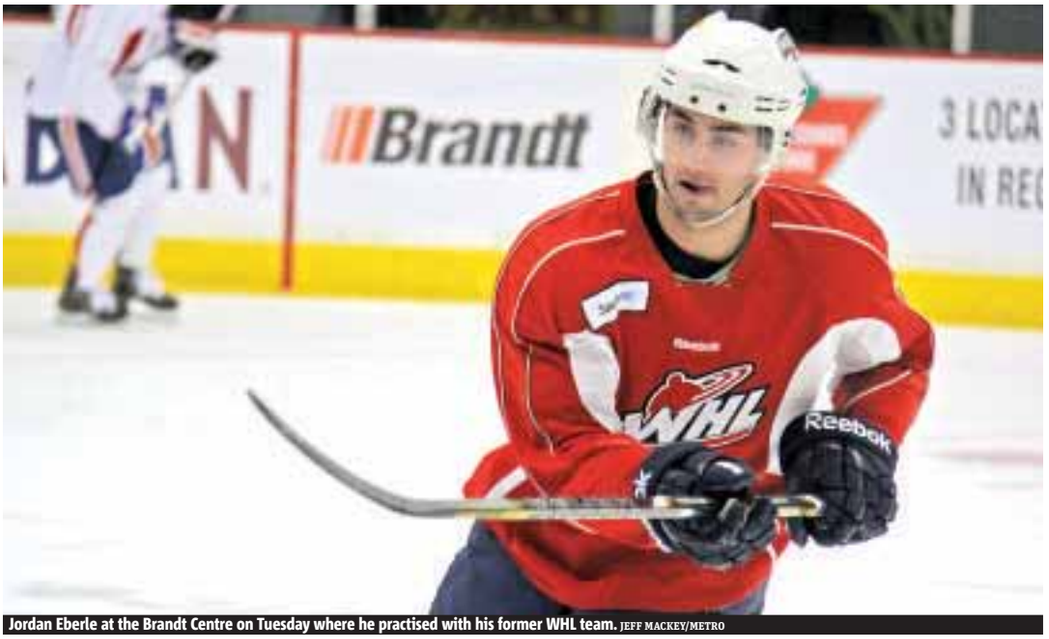
Free-agent outfielder Shane Victorino and the Red Sox agreed Tuesday to a $39-million, three-year contract — Boston's second big addition during the winter meetings.

Victorino's deal is subject to a physical, as is the $39-million, three-year contract the Red Sox agreed to Monday with Mike Napoli.

Victorino hit a combined .255 with 11 home runs and 55 RBIs last season for Philadelphia and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shane Victorino GETTY IMAGES FILE



Jordan Eberle at the Brandt Centre on Tuesday where he practised with his former WHL team. JEFF MACKEY/METRO

Eberle returns to old stomping grounds

A hero's return. Local star skates, and soaks in memories, with former WHL club

JEFF MACKEY
jeff.mackey@metronews.ca

Pats alumni and one of Regina's favourite sons Jordan Eberle dropped by the Brandt Centre Tuesday to practise with his old team.

Though "old" may not be the best way to refer to Eberle or the Pats given their respective ages.

"It is a little different (being back in the dressing room). I obviously have a lot of fond memories playing here," said Eberle, 22. "I walked in and remember the (dressing) room being a lot bigger."

Eberle was drafted 22nd overall by the Edmonton Oilers in 2008, and has been waiting out the NHL lockout in Oklahoma City playing with the Barons in the AHL.

"My focus all year has been on Oklahoma City, and we are starting to get on a good run there so hopefully we can keep that going," he said.

Eberle is in town for a jersey-retirement ceremony tomorrow night when the Pats take on the Red Deer Rebels at 7 p.m. at the Brandt Centre.

The announcement surprised some since Eberle is much younger than your stereotypical jersey retiree.

"It has only been two or three years since I played here last so it is a bit different, but at the end of the day it is quite the honour, especially at such a young age," said Eberle.

He says he looks forward to playing in the NHL — and in Canada — once again.

"I want to play in Edmonton, I think that is the bottom line, but the way things are going it doesn't look good," said Eberle.

By the numbers

27

Jordan Eberle has 12 goals and 15 assists for 27 points in 20 games this season with the Oilers' farm team in Oklahoma City.

Collective bargaining

NHL owners and players met into the night on Tuesday for a session that didn't include the leaders of either side.

- Sidney Crosby, Jonathan Toews, Ryan Miller, Brad Richards, Shane Doan and Mike Cammalleri were among the players representing the NHLPA.
- They sat across from owners Mark Chipman (Winnipeg), Murray Edwards (Calgary), Larry Tanenbaum (Toronto), Jeff Vinik (Tampa Bay), Ron Burkle (Pittsburgh) and Jeremy Jacobs (Boston).

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DRIVE 5

L.A. show proves that cars are always greener (and shinier) on the other side

Electric evolution. Automakers have spotted consumers' love of green, and the result is gorgeous, guilt-free vehicles

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Do you suffer from shiny object syndrome, or SOS as it's known in the self-help industry? Are you pulled invisibly toward bright shiny objects, and then transfixed in their orbit, while you try to rationalize their purchase or theft?

Then don't go, like I did last week, to the Los Angles Auto Show. It's full of things you will want to steal or buy — even the so-called green ones.

The evolution of green vehicles coming in more and more attractive packages has happened over the last decade or so, after automakers realized that we consumers are drawn to green, so long as it is in a vehicle form that fits our emotional or practical needs, for whatever life stage we're in at the moment.

For example, while small and utilitarian is the ultimate way to go green, the chances are slim that you're going to buy a smart for-two electric if you go to ski country every winter weekend with four kids and a smelly dog.

On the flip side, the chances are also slim you're going to shell out $100,000-plus for a cool Fisker Karma hybrid when you're a freshman at U of Jagermeister.

The talking heads during the automakers' press days at the L.A. show repeatedly mentioned that there is no silver bullet to green technology, and that they'll have to make green advances on all fronts and on all types of vehicles, and that the vehicles themselves cannot "not deliver" their respective brand promises.

So, if I could, I would like to draw your attention to three L.A. debuts that illustrate this vision.

BMW i8 Spyder

The BMW i8 Spyder shown in L.A. is definitely a concept, but production versions of both i8 coupes and convertibles are definitely coming sometime around the 2014-15 timeframe. Expect prices of more than $100,000 and top speeds of more than 150 mph, so they'll definitely be worthy of wearing the BMW badge. The "petrol" part of the plug-in hybrid concept is a three-cylinder turbo-diesel, expected to deliver about 70 mpg (3.36 L/100 km).

Chevrolet Spark EV

Chevrolet is GM's go-to brand for targeting young hipsters and value-conscious elders. As Chevrolet's smallest car, the Spark is already a great urban mobility device, and the electrification of it makes it even more so. When it goes on sale next summer, for about $32,500 US (the U.S. federal rebate of $7,500 lowers the price to $25,000), it will be GM's first all-electric passenger vehicle since the EV1 was controversially discontinued in 2003. Unfortunately, the small number of Spark EVs coming to Canada next year is strictly for fleet accounts.

Technical highlights: Lots of components carried over from Volt; First vehicle to use new SAE Combo DC Fast Charging protocol, enables Spark EV to charge to 80 per cent in 20 minutes; Two seven-inch LCD screens to better utilize smartphone infotainment, like navigation, satellite radio and Apple's Siri voice thing. On top of that is a Lithium ion battery pack and electric motor (designed and built by GM in the U.S.) which delivers 130 hp and 400 pound-feet of torque! It should be a hoot to drive. Expect speeds of around 80 km/h.

Mercedes-Benz Ener-G-Force

The L.A. show hosted a design challenge, where automakers could envision a Highway Patrol Vehicle in 2025.

Mercedes-Benz came up with the Ener-G-Force, which channels the vibe of a G Class off-roader circa 1979. There is, however, a twist. The G Force stores rainwater in the tanks on the roof, and transfers it to the "hydro-tech convertor," where it's turned into hydrogen for operating the fuel cells. "Swappable" battery packs are stored in the side skirts. There is an electric motor at each wheel to deliver four-wheel drive.

A 360-degree topography scanner sends data to the suspension computer, which adjusts suspension parameters for maximum traction. It's a zero-emission vehicle with zero tolerance for citizen misbehaviour.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Look ahead and make plans — the bigger the better. The planets are encouraging you to try out new ways of doing things and before the current week is over, you will have had a revelation of some kind.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
What happens over the next 24 hours will convince you there can be no more looking back. It is the future that matters and the future begins now. Change your life by changing the way you think about it.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Why do you believe you are surrounded by enemies? Whatever the reason, it must not be allowed to stop you from taking risks. Over the next few days, if you bet against the odds, you might just win big.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What is the one thing you are really good at? Everyone has a talent of some sort and if you identify yours and do something with it, you will soon enjoy amazing success. Do what comes naturally and do it brilliantly.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Be brave and take that big gamble you have been thinking of. There are, of course, no guarantees but life is supposed to be fun and one of the most fun things you can do is to reach beyond your usual limits.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A long-term problem will work itself out to your complete satisfaction today and to say you will be surprised is a big understatement. Don't think about it too much, just make the most of it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It seems you have been working at cross purposes with a friend, but the good news is you can easily set things straight. Identify what each of you is trying to accomplish then resolve to help one another.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Someone new will come into your life today and it could be the start of a great friendship. You may be as different as chalk is from cheese but for some reason you will click. It could be you are soul mates.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Old-fashioned ideas and habitual routines tend to bore you and that's good because success will come through trying new things. Don't just move with the times, move ahead of the times. Shake up the status quo.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Whatever it is you get up to next it is sure to change the way other people look at you, and maybe even the way you look at yourself. Strive to be different, not just today but every day from now on.

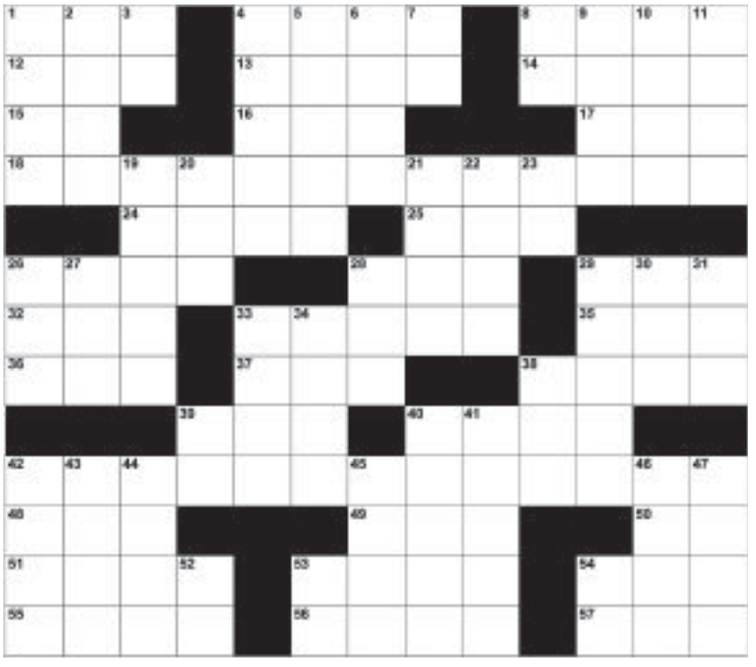
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will have plenty to say for yourself today but there is a danger you will say too much and turn others against you. That may not worry you much now but it will later on when you need their assistance.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Today's events will surprise you, especially if you are the kind of Pisces who thinks in terms of black and white or good and bad. Try not to be so conservative in your opinions. Strive to see the bigger picture.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

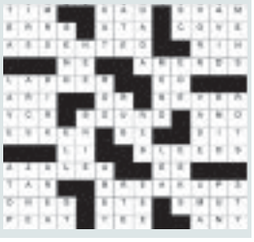
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Auger
4. Skin
8. Star —: Deep Space Nine
12. Stage of sleep (abbr.)
13. Vicinity
14. Peacekeeping grp.
15. Battery sz.
16. Common suffix
17. "Smoking or —?"
18. Problem solving technique24. Rose holder
24. Urn
25. Part of UCLA
26. Catty
28. — de Janeiro
29. Runaway singer Shannon
32. Vocalized pauses
33. Yield
35. Jay-Z's genre
36. Understand
37. Flee from the law
38. Balsam and Evergreen
39. Charlottetown province (abbr.)
40. Use the phone
42. Genuinely real
48. GPS heading (abbr.)
49. NHL legend Bobby
50. First two vowels in a sequence
51. Orange peel
53. Only one time
54. Rap sheet abbreviation
55. Director Preminger
56. Meadows
57. Berlin article

Down
1. Spirited horse
2. "What Not to —"
3. Letters between K and N
4. Growing —
5. Greeted the day
6. Monthly expense
7. Apiece (abbr.)
8. Actress who starred in Father Dowling Mysteries (init.)
9. Indian Queen
10. British prep school.
11. "King —"
19. Cease
20. Author Fleming
21. Ken or Lena
22. Tooth anchor
23. Form of address
26. "Sleepless in Seattle" actress Ryan
27. Sooner than, poetically
28. Zodiac symbol
29. Boring tool
30. Corn unit
31. CD's predecessor
33. Jane Lynch drama
34. Precipitation
38. Tampa state
39. Chemistry measure (abbr.)
40. Time frame
41. Farm units
42. Flying (prefix)
43. Condo, e.g.
44. Camping necessity
45. Pitch
46. Trout habitat
47. Part of a decade
52. "— the Right Thing"
53. Chemical suffix
54. Billboard use

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	9	3	4	2	8	5	1
1	4	2	8	7	5	9	3	6
3	5	8	9	6	1	4	2	7
5	3	1	2	8	4	7	6	9
8	9	7	5	1	6	2	4	3
2	6	4	7	9	3	1	8	5
7	8	6	4	5	9	3	1	2
9	2	5	1	3	8	6	7	4
4	1	3	6	2	7	5	9	8

8			3		9			
9	3						6	5
	7			2		8		
	5		6	7				1
		7				6		
6				5	4		2	
		9		8			1	
7	6						8	4
			1		3			6

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